

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2005

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Charles Scholtes, P.A., in Conference Room 5B, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Copies of the agenda were sent to the Committee members, media and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The following members answered roll call.

Charles Scholtes, P.A., Chair
Gerald Luckey, MD
Carl Rossitto,
Paul Shellabarger, PA

Absent: Randy Kohl, MD;

A quorum was present and the meeting convened. Present from the Credentialing Division were Becky Wisell, Section Administrator; Vonda Apking, Credentialing Coordinator; Sherri Joyner, Credentialing Specialist; Michael Grutsch, Program Manager, Investigations Division; and Terri Nutzman-Buller, Assistant Attorney General. Also present were Gerard Baker, Cheryl Lindly, P.A., Kimberly Dierks, P.A., and Josalynn Swan, P.A., all from Alegent Health.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Shellabarger moved, seconded by Rossitto, to approve the agenda with the Chair's ability to rearrange as needed. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl. Motion carried.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Application to Supervise a Third Physician Assistant

The Committee discussed Dr. Bernard Hillyer's application to supervise Carissa Jessen. Dr. Hillyer is already certified to supervise two physician assistants. The Board noted that two of the physician assistants are part-time, and the third physician assistant's hours would not make Dr. Hillyer supervision exceed two full-time equivalent (FTE) employees at any time. Shellabarger moved, seconded by Rossitto, to approve Dr. Hillyer's application to supervise Carrissa Jessen, P.A., as a third physician assistant. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl. Motion carried.

Application to Supervise a Physician Assistant from Physician with Previous Disciplinary Action

The Committee discussed Dr. Dwaine Peetz's application to supervise Amy Meeks, P.A. Dr. Peetz's Nebraska physician license was on probation from 7/10/1991 to 7/10/1993. Luckey moved, seconded by Shellabarger, to approve Dr. Peetz's application to supervise Amy Meeks, P.A. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl. Motion carried.

Application to Supervise a Physician Assistant & Request for Less than 20% Supervision

The Committee discussed Dr. Gregory Kloch's application to supervise Sid Jaeger, P.A. at approximately 18% supervision. Mr. Jaeger works with Dr. Kloch 11 hours per week and is on-call for the Tri-County Hospital Emergency Room approximately 52 hours per week. Luckey moved, seconded by Rossitto, to approve Dr. Kloch's application to supervise Sid Jaeger, P.A. at less than 20%. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed Dr. Elvira Rios' application to supervise Stella Washington, P.A., at 0% physical supervision. Dr. Rios explained in her application that supervision for Ms. Washington would occur by telephone. Ms. Washington will screen phone calls forwarded to her by Dr. Rios' answering service during week-ends when Dr. Rios is on-call. Dr. Rios will not be physically present. The Committee commented that given the type of medical service Ms. Washington will be providing, that telecommunication would provide sufficient supervision. Luckey moved, seconded by Rossitto, to approve Dr. Rios' application to supervise Stella Washington, P.A. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl. Motion carried.

Request for Less than 20% Supervision & Request for Secondary Site Approval

The Committee discussed Dr. Hoeft's application for approval to supervise Josalynn Swan, P.A. at 10% supervision and the application also requested approval to supervise Ms. Swan at a secondary site. The proposed secondary site is a "Quick Care" clinic that Alegent Health plans to open at an Omaha grocery store. Cheryl Lindly, P.A., from Alegent Health, addressed the Committee regarding this application. She provided the Committee with a list of the medical services the clinic would be providing. The Committee noted the limited and non-complex scope of services that the clinic will provide the 10% supervision would be sufficient. Shellabarger moved, seconded by Rossitto, to approve Dr. Hoeft's application to supervise Josalynn Swan, P.A. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl. Motion carried.

Application to Supervise a Physician Assistant & Request for Secondary Site Approval

The Committee discussed Dr. John Finker's application to supervise Jon Becker, P.A. at Kearney County Medical Clinic in Minden. Shellabarger moved, seconded by Rossitto, to approve Dr. Finkner's application to supervise Jon Becker, P.A. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl. Motion carried.

Application to Supervise a Physician Assistant & Request for Secondary Site Approval

The Committee discussed Dr. Marshall Brown's application to supervise Clint Whitwer, P.A. and his application for approval to supervise Mr. Whitwer at Midwest Health Partners' ambulatory clinic at Sunset Plaza in Norfolk a secondary site for Dr. Brown. Shellabarger moved, seconded by Rossitto, to approve Dr. Brown's application to supervise Clint Whitwer, P.A. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl. Motion carried.

Application to Supervise a Physician Assistant & Request for Approval to Supervise a Third PA

The Committee discussed Dr. Jennifer Bengston's application to supervise Robert Reilly, P.A. at Ord Family Healthcare. Dr. Bengston is already certified to supervise two physician assistants. The Committee noted the high-level of experience of the third physician assistant. The Committee also noted that the arrangement appears to be temporary, since Ord Family Healthcare's other physician, Dr. Rachel Blake, is scheduled to return from active duty in Iraq in January 2006. Shellabarger moved, seconded by Rossitto, to approve Dr. Brown's application to supervise Robert Reilly, P.A. as a third physician assistant. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION

Wisell updated the Committee on proposed revisions to the Uniform Licensing Law (ULL). Wisell noted that other Boards expressed concerns about revisions that replaced the term "recommendation" with the term "advice." Wisell stated that the term "recommendation" will be retained. Wisell also stated that the current rewrite would require persons applying for licensure by endorsement to meet the requirements for obtaining a credential rather than just meeting the competency requirement. Wisell explained that the Department is planning on introducing the draft as 2006 legislation.

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

The Committee reviewed a list of the physician assistants and physician assistant supervisors who renewed their licenses after the October 1, 2005 expiration date and were assessed administrative penalties by the Department for having practiced on expired licenses. The administrative penalty is not disciplinary action. The Committee did not want to discuss any of them in closed session at the next meeting.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The PA Committee scheduled their 2006 meetings dates: Jan 6, Feb 3, March 17, April 26, June 9, July 21, Aug 30, Oct 13, and Nov 29. All meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Shellabarger moved, seconded by Rossitto, to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Voting aye: Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger, Scholtes. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Sherri Joyner, Credentialing Specialist
Recorder